

HOUSE BILL 1532  
By Winningham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to financial assistance  
for postsecondary education from lottery  
proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

( ) "Dual enrollment grant" means a grant for study at an eligible postsecondary institution that is funded from net proceeds of the state lottery and awarded to students who are attending high school and who are also enrolled in college courses at eligible postsecondary institutions for which they will receive college credit.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section.

Section 49-4-9\_\_.

(a) A high school student who is also enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution shall be eligible for a dual enrollment grant, if the student:

(1) Is not ineligible for the grant under § 49-4-904;

(2) Is a Tennessee resident and has been a Tennessee resident, as defined by regulations promulgated by the board of regents under § 49-8-104, for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of application for a grant or for the renewal of a grant;

(3) Is admitted to an eligible postsecondary institution as a dual enrollment student; and

(4) Makes application for the dual enrollment grant.

(b)

(1) To be eligible for a dual enrollment grant, a high school student who is attending an eligible high school shall, at the time of application for the grant, have an overall unweighted high school grade point average of 3.0, a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date.

(2) To be eligible for a dual enrollment grant, a high school student who is attending a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school or who is attending a Tennessee home school shall, at the time of application for the grant, have a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date.

(c) A student who receives a dual enrollment grant for one (1) semester shall reapply for a dual enrollment grant for the student's next semester of attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution. To be eligible for a dual enrollment grant for a semester beyond the first semester of receipt, the student shall continue to meet all eligibility requirements for the grant and shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 for all postsecondary courses attempted under a dual enrollment grant.

(d) The receipt of a dual enrollment grant is contingent upon admission to an eligible postsecondary institution. Academically qualifying for a dual enrollment grant does not guarantee admission to an eligible postsecondary institution.

(e) Semester hours attempted under a dual enrollment grant shall count under § 49-4-913 toward the total semester hours attempted at postsecondary institutions for purposes of Tennessee HOPE scholarship eligibility.

(f) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial

assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, the award for a dual enrollment grant shall be no more than the tuition and fees for courses taken under such grant. In any fiscal year, the maximum amount of such grant shall be determined in accordance with § 4-51-111 and shall be set in the General Appropriations Act. It is the intent of the general assembly that funding for Tennessee HOPE scholarships, Tennessee HOPE access grants, and Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grants take priority over funding for dual enrollment grants.

(g) Grants awarded under this section shall not commence prior to the fall semester of 2005.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.